

Message Text

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12

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2122

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0866

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, VN, VS

SUBJECT: US STATEMENT ON SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF PARIS AGREEMENT

REF: SAIGON 267

1. WE ARE TRANSMITTING SEPTTEL TEXT OF GVN DECLARATION TO BE ISSUED MORNING JANUARY 24 IN SAIGON TO MARK SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF PARIS AGREEMENT. MFA HAS EXPLAINED DECLARATION IS BEING ISSUED ON THIS DATE TO PRE-EMPT "PRG" PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 25 AND EXPECTED PRONOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 26 BY VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS SUCH AS AN QUANG AND FATHER THANH.

2. IN VIEW FESTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND IT SEEMS TO US SAME REASONING APPLIES THERE. CONSEQUENTLY WE SUGGEST STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN VOLUNTEER A STATEMENT ON SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF PARIS AGREEMENT AT JANUARY 24 PRESS BRIEFING ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. BEGIN TEXT: TWO YEARS AGO IN PARIS THERE WAS SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIET-NAM. WE HAD GREAT HOPE AT THAT TIME THAT THIS CRUEL WAR WHICH HAD BROUGHT SO MUCH SUFFERING TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE COULD FINALLY BE BROUGHT TO AN END. BUT AS TIME HAS GONE ON THESE HOPES HAVE GRADUALLY BEEN DECEIVED, AND AT THE PRESENT TIME THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IS SIMILAR TO LEVELS BEFORE THE AGREEMENT. THE CAUSE OF THIS
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FRUSTRATION HAS BEEN THE PERSISTENT REFUSAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC

REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM AND ITS SOUTHERN BRANCH, THE "PRG", TO ABIDE BY THE AGREEMENT. THEY HAVE VIOLATED ALL OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, AS SPELLED OUT IN THE US NOTE OF JANUARY 11 SENT TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM.

3. DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE WILL BE HEARING MANY STATEMENTS AND MANY ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION, OR LACK OF IT, OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. IT WOULD BE WELL TO KEEP IN MIND TWO BASIC FACTS: ONE, IT IS THE SO-CALLED "PRG" WHICH BROKE OFF ALL NEGOTIATIONS

IN PARIS AND SAIGON LAST YEAR AND HAS REFUSED TO RETURN TO DISCUSSIONS, DEMANDING THAT PRESIDENT THIEU BE OVERTHROWN AS A PRECONDITION.

TWO, NO AMOUNT OF OBFUSCATION AND DECEPTION CAN ALTER THE FUNDAMENTAL FACT THAT IT IS NORTH VIETNAM WHICH HAS BEEN IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF EVERY IMPORTANT PROVISION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT VIRTUALLY SINCE THE BEGINNING. THE RECENT OVERRUNNING BY NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY FORCES OF AN ENTIRE PROVINCE WHICH EVERYONE AGREES WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AT THE TIME OF THE CEASE-FIRE IS THE LATEST EXAMPLE, THE MURDER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN BY NORTH VIETNAMESE GUNNERS AT CAI LAY LAST YEAR, THE SHOOTING DOWN OF REFUGEES IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, THE ROCKETING OF HOSPITALS AND CIVILIAN HOUSING AREAS IN TAY NINH CITY THIS WEEK ARE THREE RANDOM EXAMPLES OF THE CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE AND ALL STANDARDS OF DECENCY WITH WHICH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CARRY OUT THEIR DISREGARD FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

4. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TODAY ISSUED A DECLARATION WHICH SET FORTH ONCE AGAIN A MODERATE AND REASONABLE POSITION, REPEATING AN EARLIER CALL TO THE COMMUNISTS TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS CONTINUING INITIATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO BRING ABOUT RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS WHICH ARE PRESCRIBED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ON WHICH THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN VIETNAM DEPENDS. END TEXT
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